Second Sunday of Advent — December 6, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Toward the end of World War II, a squad of soldiers came to a little Italian village that had been bitterly fought over. In the village square they found a statue of Christ lying on the ground, battered and broken. Some of the soldiers put it together as best as they could and set it back to its pedestal. But they could not find the hands. Finally, one from the group made a crudely lettered sign which read: "I have no other hands but yours". Truly, the Christians are living hands of Christ. They ought always to point to Christ by word and example.

When St. John the Baptist appeared on the scene, he soon won a large following. What attracted the crowds was both the appearance of the man and his intriguing message. St. John practiced what he preached: Penance. He was not clothed in fine garments, but in camel's hair which is rough and for a belt he wore a strip of skin that had been tanned. His food was that of the wilderness: honey extracted from wild bees' nests, and roasted grasshoppers. A more rugged picture of an ascetic can hardly be drawn. Yet this is what drew the crowds, for they knew that the prophets of old practiced rugged asceticism and were close to God. The people were hungry for God.

Also, his message was one of penance: "Repent for the reign of God is at hand. There comes One after me who is mightier than I. I am but his lowly slave, not fit even to perform the slave's task of untying his sandal-straps." With these words spoken in deep humility, St. John the Baptist prepared the people for the Coming One. He had no intention of attracting people to himself, he was not out to make friends nor to win applause. Rather, his whole purpose was to point to the One who alone is the Savior of the world. St. John came solely to bear witness to Christ. All his words and deeds were pointing to Christ.

Our lives as Christians ought always to point to Christ, both by our conduct and by opportune words. If the entire Church is missionary, each one of us has the duty to try to lead others to Christ. Sometimes it is by a mere word that people are brought to Christ. How often converts have mentioned that for years no one invited them to attend Catholic services, or to read some Catholic literature or listen to a homily preached on some special occasion such as a mission, or mass on Christmas, Lent, Easter or ordinary Sunday. Yet they were hungry for the truth and only lacked the courage to take the initiative. Again, how often the faithful example of a devout Catholic wife or husband has brought back a wayward husband or wife to practice of his or her childhood faith. There are many ways to point to Christ and the Christ-life. Like St. John the Baptist, the true Christian does not wish to draw others to himself or herself but to point to Christ and draw all to him. For it is Christ who will accomplish the transformation in our hearts by his Spirit of Love.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**December 8**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**December 9**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**December 10**	**N/A**
Steve Gallo		Mom & Dad
Fri.	**December 11**	**N/A**
Winnie E. Mariano (thanksgiving)		Mariano Family
Sat.	**December 12**	**4:30PM**
People of the Parish		
Sun.	**December 13**	**9:00AM**
Edgar Allan (birthday)		Mom & Dad
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
Mahoney Family †		Alice Marshall

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